

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 14 2004. Claims 1-19 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2 and 9-13 were rejected, and Claims 3-8 and 14-19 were objected to. In order to advance and expedite prosecution of the present Application, Applicants amend Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 13-17 and 19, and Applicants add new Claims 20-25. Thus, Claims 1-25 remain pending in the Application.

In the Office Action, the following actions were taken or matters were raised:

SECTION 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,532,147 issued to Christ, Jr. (hereinafter “*Christ*”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,700,773 issued to Adriaansen et al. (hereinafter “*Adriaansen*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Of the rejected claims, Claims 1 and 13 are independent. Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Christ* nor *Adriaansen*, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the limitations of independent Claims 1 and 13 as amended. For example, Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Christ* nor *Adriaansen*, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests “a hinge structure having a clutch member coupling the base and the lid, the clutch member having a variable height operable to enable the lid to close over the at least one removable center module” as recited in amended independent Claim 1 (emphasis added) or “a hinge structure having a clutch member coupling the first and second portions, the clutch member having a variable height operable to enable the first portion to close over at least one removable center module” as recited in amended independent Claim 13 (emphasis added). Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 13 as amended are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2 and 9-12 depend from independent Claim 1. As described above, independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, for at least this reason, Claims

2 and 9-12 are also in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 2 and 9-12.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS/ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3-8 and 14-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner indicated that Claims 3-8 and 14-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 3-8 depend from independent Claim 1, and Claims 14-19 depend from independent Claim 13. As discussed above, independent Claims 1 and 13 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Claims 3-8 and 14-19 that depend respectively therefrom are also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 3-8 and 14-19.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants add new Claims 20-25. New Claims 21-25 depend from new independent Claim 20. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 20-25 are patentable over the cited references and, therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of new Claims 20-25.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

With the presentation of new Claims 20-25, an excess claim fee of \$250.00 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c) is believed due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$250.00 to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company to cover the excess claim fees. If, however, Applicants have miscalculated the fee due with this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Response to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 of Hewlett-Packard Company.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
James L. Baudino
Reg. No. 43,486

Date: March 14, 2005

Correspondence to:
L.Joy Griebenow
Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P. O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400
Tel. 970-898-3884